

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00365 081253Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0365

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT FORMATION - NO. 6 - KARL SKYTTE

ROUND CONCLUDED; ANKER JORGENSEN APPOINTED

NEW FORMATEUR

REF: COPENHAGEN 322

1. KARL SKYTTE, PRESIDENT OF THE FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT)

REPORTED TO THE QUEEN FEBRUARY 7 HIS INABILITY TO

FIND A PARLIAMENTARY BASIS FOR A BROAD, MAJORITY GOVERNMENT.

HIS ROUND OF FORMATION TALKS WAS THEREUPON

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PAGE 02 COPENH 00365 081253Z

CONCLUDED AND THE QUEEN CALLED IN CARETAKER PRIME

MINISTER POUL HARTLING, WHO ADVISED HER TO CONSULT PARTY LEADERS TO FIND A NEW FORMATEUR. SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY LEADERS RESULTED IN THE QUEEN'S APPOINTING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN FORMATEUR TO SEEK PARLIAMENTARY BACKING FOR A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT.

2. JORGENSEN'S APPOINTMENT WAS SUPPORTED BY HIS OWN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE THREE FAR-LEFT PARTIES WHICH HAVE CONSISTENTLY INDICATED SUPPORT FOR A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MINORITY GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, JORGENSEN WAS SUPPORTED BY THE RADICALS, BUT ONLY ON CONDITION THAT HE SEEK PARLIAMENTARY BASIS FOR MAJORITY GOVERNMENT. POUL HARTLING HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE LIBERALS, CONSERVATIVES, CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY AND MOGENS GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVES. ERHARD JACOBSEN'S CENTER DEMOCRATS (4 SEATS) WERE ONCE AGAIN THE SWING VOTE, BLOCKING HARTLING'S NOMINATION. THEY ABSTAINED, IN EFFECT, BY BACKING SKYTTE.

3. JORGENSEN WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND BROAD BACKING FROM PARTIES ACROSS THE MIDDLE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, BUT EXCLUDING THE LIBERALS. THE LAST TWO DAYS OF BILATERAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-LIBERAL TALKS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE IRRECONCILABILITY OF THOSE TWO PARTIES. JORGENSEN HAS PUBLICLY FLOATED THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT-RADICAL-CONSERVATIVE-CHRISTIAN PEOPLES-CENTER DEMOCRAT COALITION, BUT SUCH A DISPARATE CONSTELLATION IS PROBABLY NOT ACHIEVABLE.

4. BY THE LIMITATION ON HIS MANDATE, THAT HE SEEK A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT, JORGENSEN IS DENIED THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT-RADICAL COALITION OR OF PROPOSING A PURE, MINORITY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH HIS PARTY IS PREPARED FOR EITHER OF THE LATTER EVENTUALITIES, JORGENSEN WILL FIRST HAVE TO REPORT TO THE QUEEN THAT A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-LED MAJORITY GOVERNMENT IS NOT FEASIBLE. THAT COULD ALLOW HARTLING, OR ANOTHER CANDIDATE SUCH AS RADICAL LEADER HILMAR BAUNSGAARD, ANOTHER SHOT AT FORMING A NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT.

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PAGE 03 COPENH 00365 081253Z

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